

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 /069 W
-----113044 210404Z /21

R 200840Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 152
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4493

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BG
SUBJECT: ZIA CONTINUES CAMPAIGNING THE TIES TO STOP JAGODAL
BICKERING

REF: DACCA 4341

1. PRESIDENT ZIA, AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF REST FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, NOW IS BACK HARD ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL. HIS POLITICAL MESSAGE IS TO ELECT HONEST, NON-CORRUPT, NATIONALIST INDIVIDUALS TO PARLIAMENT WHEN THE DECEMBER ELECTIONS ARE HELD. HE REITERATES HIS OPPOSITION TO ANTI-NATIONALISTS, FOR WHICH READ AWAMI LEAGUERS WHO WERE LATER BAKSALITES.

2. WHILE ZIA IS INDICATING WHAT TYPE OF PARLIAMENTARIAN HE WANTS, HIS FRONT IS FAR FROM SELECTING CANDIDATES. AND THERE IS STILL DISAGREEMENT WITHIN JAGODAL ABOUT THE CONTINUATION OF THE FRONT (SEE REFTEL). ZIA, HOWEVER, HAS MOVED TO DAMP THE BICKERING BY LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT
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HE WISHES THE FRONT TO CONTINUE DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION AND THE ASSOCIATED PARTIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE A MAJORITY OF HIS SUPPORTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE BODY.

3. DIRECTOR GENERAL HAKIM OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE TOLD POLCOUNSELOR, JULY 20, THAT ZIA PERSONALLY

AND THROUGH HIS PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICER BRIGADIER NURAL ISLAM ("SHISHU") HAD TOLD SUCH AS ABUL HASNAT, MAYOR OF DACCA, TO "KNOCK IT OFF". HAKIM ADDED HIS OPINION, WHICH WE SHARE, THAT THE POLITICALLY INEXPERIENCED AND OFTEN NAIVE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF JAGODAL MISTAKENLY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THEY WHO ACHIEVED THE PRESIDENT'S LARGE VICTORY LAST MONTH. HAKIM SAID, AND WE AGREE, THAT THE FIRST ASSET IN THE CAMPAIGN WAS ZIA HIMSELF AND NEXT TO HIM THE EXPERIENCED POLITICIANS OF THE NON-JAGODAL PARTIES. IT WOULD BE THE SAME, HE SAID, IN DECEMBER; IN SHORT, JAGODAL NEEDS THE FRONT MUCH MORE THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

4. NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO HAVE MADE HIS VIEWS QUITE CLEAR WE MAY EXPECT (AND HAVE SEEN) A CURTAILING OF PUBLIC SQUABBLES. HOWEVER, THE PRIVATE GRUMBLING MAY WELL CONTINUE. HASNAT GRIPED EXTENSIVELY TO POLCOUNSELOR IN ONE DIRECTION, WHILE OIL MINISTER ENAYETULLAH (WHO FAVORS PRE-ELECTION MERGER) DID SO IN THE OTHER DIRECTION WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. SCHNEIDER

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